WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An interface device for establishing an interface between a CPU and an external unit, comprising a timer portion, a mask portion and an interrupt controlling, wherein:

said timer portion asserts a mask signal when detecting that a wait signal outputted from said external unit is kept asserted for more than a predetermined period of time,

said mask portion masks said wait signal and outputs it to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted; and

said interrupt portion issues an interrupt signal to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted.

2. An information processing system comprising a CPU and an interface device for establishing an interface between said CPU and an external unit, wherein:

when said interface device detects that a wait signal outputted from said external unit has been kept asserted for more than a predetermined period of time, said interface device masks the wait signal for outputting to said CPU and issues an interrupt signal to said CPU.

1   3.   An information processing system according to Claim

2   2, wherein said interface device comprises a timer portion,

3   a mask portion and an interrupt controlling portion,

4   wherein

5   said timer portion is activated when the wait signal

6   outputted from said external unit is asserted, and then

7   asserts a mask signal when said wait signal is kept

8   asserted for more than a predetermined period of time;

9   said mask portion masks said wait signal for

10 outputting to said CPU when said mask signal is asserted;

11 and

12   said interrupt controlling portion issues an

13 interrupt signal to said CPU when said mask signal is

14 asserted.

1   4.   An information processing system according to Claim

2   3, wherein said CPU detects said interrupt signal thereby

3   to recover said external unit.

1   5.   An information processing system according to Claim

2   2, wherein said CPU detects said interrupt signal thereby

3   to recover said external unit.